

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PENNINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EMERGENCY MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 17TH, 2020, 9:00 A.M.**

As called by emergency, the Pennington County Board of Commissioners met in the Pennington County Board Room in Thief River Falls, MN, on Tuesday, March 17th, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. Members Present: Darryl Tveitbakk, Cody Hempel, Bruce Lawrence, and Neil Peterson. Absent: Donald Jensen.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tveitbakk and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Brian Holmer, Mayor of Thief River Falls, voiced his support of the County passing a Declaration of Emergency. The City Council will take up the issue at the City Council meeting being held tonight.

It was noted that an ad will be placed in the Thief River Falls Times and The Northern Watch outlining best practices to keep the workplace, school, home and commercial establishments safe. Pennington County and the City of Thief River Falls have agreed to share the cost of the public ad.

Emergency Management Director Erik Beitel stated that the Minnesota Dept. of Health has reported no new changes today, but the Governor is expected to issue an order to close all dine-in restaurants and bars. Such establishments will still be able to provide take-out and delivery orders.

Mr. Beitel then read a prepared Declaration of Emergency and recommended its adoption.

The following resolution was introduced by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Hempel, and upon vote was unanimously carried.

**DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY
COVID-19**

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Pandemic Virus will impact the population of Pennington County and its Cities due to the significant disruption of public services to include School Closures, Day Cares, Public Health Services and other services essential to the health and wellbeing of the citizens of Pennington County; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared a global pandemic is occurring as the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) has spread across the United States and Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, additional resources may need to be requested and/or reassigned to meet community needs; and

WHEREAS, the daily operations of county government are anticipated to be impacted to comply with Minnesota Department of Health and Center for Disease Control recommendation to minimize the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has declared a National Emergency enacting the Stafford Act and the Governor of Minnesota has declared a Peacetime State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, Pennington County Emergency Management requests the Pennington County Board of Commissioners to declare Pennington County in a State of Emergency for the response to the COVID-19 crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Pennington County has declared a State of Emergency for the period of 30 days effective March 17th, 2020 through April 15th, 2020 or until circumstances no longer require a State of Emergency.

It was discussed and decided that the next trigger in the pandemic plan will be if/when a confirmed case of COVID-19 is found in a county bordering Pennington County.

Mr. Beitel also reviewed the FEMA reimbursement for flood damage in 2019.

No guidance has been provided from the State of Minnesota regarding reimbursement of any expenses for COVID-19 except for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Quin County Community Health Administrator Jodi Flaagan stated they have been asked to halt all current activities and direct all resources to the COVID-19 emergency.

It was stressed that what is happening right now is helping us prepare for COVID-19 and that this is not a time to panic.

Motioned by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to adjourn the Emergency Meeting of the Pennington County Board of Commissioners. Motion carried.

The next regular County Board meeting is scheduled for March 24th, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

Kenneth Olson, Auditor-Treasurer
Pennington County

Darryl Tveitbakk, Chairman
Board of Commissioners